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August 12, 2011

President Robert Abboud
Village of Barrington Hills
112 Algonquin Road
Barrington Hills, IL 60010

Dear President Abboud,

Access to high-speed broadband is as essential to modern living as roads, electricity and telephone service. Yet in many parts of McHenry County such access is limited or very expensive. This deficiency puts McHenry County at a competitive disadvantage in attracting and retaining business and limits the opportunities for schools, local governments and other agencies in implementing new and innovative technologies that could potentially save money, increase performance and data security through redundancy of service.

Recognizing the County's need for greater access to high-speed broadband, in 2010 McHenry County, the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and McHenry County Council of Governments contracted the services of the Northern Illinois University Regional Development Institute to assess the gaps in broadband connectivity, the cost of installing a county-wide dark fiber optic broadband network and the location of the fiber optic lines.

The study revealed that the cost to install a county-wide network is estimated to be \$28 million. The proposed network includes 203 miles of fiber optic lines spanning the entire county and connecting public facilities, schools, healthcare facilities and private entities. How the network would be financed and operated is yet to be determined, but a public-private partnership is envisioned and the County will begin seeking federal and state funding for this project in the coming year.

At this time, we are inviting representatives from a variety of sectors in the county to be part of this effort. As a leader within your community who represents an area that would be served by the broadband network, we believe your participation on this task force would be very beneficial. We invite you to serve on this task force as a representative of the municipal sector. The task force is expected to meet from September 2011 through January 2012. The first meeting will be September 14, 2011 at 1 pm at the McHenry County Administration Building Conference Room A. Please let me know if you are willing to serve on the task force and if you can attend the initial meeting.

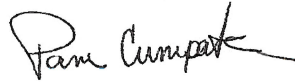
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Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need more information. We hope you will be able to assist us in this important endeavor.

Best regards,



Peter Austin
McHenry County
Administrator



Pam Cumpata
President
McHenry County
Economic Development
Corporation



Anna Bicanic Moeller
Executive Director
McHenry County Council of
Governments

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